THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATISUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a decision:

(i) to allow FDI upto 26% in Indian entities publishing newspapers and periodicals dealing in news and current affairs, subject to suitable safeguards;

'(ii) to allow Indian editions of foreign scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals; and

(iii) to allow foreign investment upto 74% in Indian entities publishing scientific, technical and speciality magazines/periodicals/journals.

All such proposals will be examined on a case by case basis.

These steps are expected to improve quality and diversity in newspapers and periodicals and easier and cheaper access to foreign scientific, technical and specialist magazines/journals/periodicals.

(c) and (d) No proposal has been received by the Government so far.

(e) It is not feasible to make any projections at this juncture.

Entering of Prasar Bharati into Cable TV services

520. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prasar Bharati has decided to enter into cable TV services using the optical fibre networks of telecom companies;

(b) if so, whether it has also started negotiations with the Government-owned telecom companies MTNL and BSNL to provide cable TV services;

(c) whether any concrete agreement in this regard has been reached; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MTNL for cooperation in exploring new business opportunities and utilising the fibre optic network for carriage of Doordarshan services.